# PORTIUNCULA NEEDS MORE FUNDING

**With over a thousand healthcare staff, Portiuncula University Hospital has remained busy servicing above 400,000 people within the town and wider district.**

Currently the ground floor of Portiuncula's new 50 Bed ward block development has been completed, with final works undergoing on its upper floor scheduled to finish this month. The facility is planned to open in Autumn, offering individual care for patients through isolated single-bed ensuites. "I look forward to the day when doors are open and patients and their families will have more dignity, privacy, keeping patients safe from infection in single rooms" comments Senator Aisling Dolan.

**Despite this multi-million Euro investment being one of the largest developments for the hospital, Independent TD Denis Naughton has been insistent believing it is not enough and advocating for a second facility to be constructed.**

"When I negotiated with Minister Simon Harris at that time, I did include on it a provision so that an additional 50-bed ward expansion would be put on there" he explained, "We do need to urgently expand the emergency department there."

**Last year over 30,000 people visited Portiuncula, the only hospital within the Saolta group who haven't previously had work done to their Emergency Departments. "We need more beds in ED" notes Senator Aisling Dolan. "There has been a surge in recent weeks especially with high numbers on trolleys and older patients 75+".**

Senator Dolan previously advocated for the current 50 Ward's inclusion in the HSE Capital Plan, collaborating alongside Minister Donnelly and the Taoiseachs Office to bring the project to fruition.

**Meanwhile Portiuncula has seen an over 65% reduction in waiting lists for those suffering from cardiological issues. This comes with the appointment of consultants, advanced nurse practitioners and physiologists who are dedicating their time and labour for patients with heart problems.**

A new geriatrician will shortly be scheduled to join the team this May, working half their time within the community and the other half at the hospital supporting their frailty services. Last year, Portiuncula introduced 'Frailty at the Front Door' which caters for older patients at home, avoiding unnecessary visits to their building.

**Currently the midwifery team are participating in a national pilot on enhanced post-natal care. Having brought in over 1,300 babies into the world, their services are integral for those across Galway, Roscommon, Westmeath, Offaly, North Tipperary, and further afield.**

Last February, Portiuncula held a remembrance service for bereaved parents who a lost child or a baby whether through miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, still-births and after-births. The mass offered the opportunity for the audience to reflect on their grief through symbols, music and prayer. Those who attended noted it gave them comfort in their healing journey.

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